

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference RAB.P04219PC	FOR FURTHER ACTION		see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.
International application No. PCT/GB 00/ 02772	International filing date (day/month/year) 19/07/2000	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 20/07/1999	
Applicant PRICE, Robin, James et al.			

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 3 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

☐ contained in the international application in written form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).

3. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box II).

4. With regard to the **title**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

☒ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

1

☐ None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

GB 00/02772

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 G11B33/04

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched: (classification system followed by classification symbols):

IPC 7 G11B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched.

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages.	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 730 283 A (LAX MICHAEL) 24 March 1998 (1998-03-24) abstract; figures 1,3A-3E column 6, line 19 -column 7, line 6 ---	1,3,4,7, 8
X	US 5 704 474 A (OLAND CHARLES JEFFREY) 6 January 1998 (1998-01-06) abstract; figures 3,4 column 2, line 66 -column 4, line 23 ---	1-4,7,8
X	EP 0 330 292 A (POLYGRAM GMBH ;POLYGRAM INT HOLDING (NL)) 30 August 1989 (1989-08-30) abstract; figures 1,5,9,13,14 column 4, line 17 -column 5, line 14 column 5, line 45 -column 6, line 7 column 6, line 58 -column 7, line 14 --- -/--	1,3-5,8

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C:☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance.

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

4 September 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

12/09/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Pariset, N

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

GB 00/02772

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No:
P, X	EP 1 014 374 A (THULIN CARTONNERIES) 28 June 2000 (2000-06-28) abstract; figures 1-12 column 6, line 25 -column 11, line 30 ----	1, 2, 4, 5, 8
A	WO 97 35313 A (RAPP PETER) 25 September 1997 (1997-09-25) abstract; figures 1-9 page 7, line 14 -page 12, line 17 ----	1-8
A	US 4 771 890 A (SMITH PHILIP D ET AL) 20 September 1988 (1988-09-20) abstract; figures 1-7, 10 column 3, line 7 - line 34 column 4, line 1 - line 41 column 5, line 1 - line 33 column 6, line 1 -column 7, line 2 -----	1-8

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

GB 00/02772

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5730283	A	24-03-1998	US 5988376 A WO 9702569 A	23-11-1999 23-01-1997
US 5704474	A	06-01-1998	NONE	
EP 0330292	A	30-08-1989	AT 60157 T CA 1249660 A DE 3581391 D EP 0188663 A HK 68192 A JP 61204879 A KR 9108173 Y SG 80792 G US 4805770 A US 4722439 A	15-02-1991 31-01-1989 21-02-1991 30-07-1986 18-09-1992 10-09-1986 12-10-1991 04-12-1992 21-02-1989 02-02-1988
EP 1014374	A	28-06-2000	NONE	
WO 9735313	A	25-09-1997	DE 19611082 A AU 2154197 A DE 19780218 D EP 0937301 A	22-08-1996 10-10-1997 23-09-1999 25-08-1999
US 4771890	A	20-09-1988	DE 3782096 A DE 3782096 T EP 0252226 A JP 62291770 A JP 62271271 A	12-11-1992 15-04-1993 13-01-1988 18-12-1987 25-11-1987

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

REC'D 15 OCT 2001

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference RAB.P04219PC	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/GB00/02772	International filing date (day/month/year) 19/07/2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 20/07/1999
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G11B33/04		
Applicant PRICE, Robin, James et al.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.


2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

- ☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 2 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☒ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☒ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☒ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 11/01/2001	Date of completion of this report 11.10.2001
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer Poulsen, M Telephone No. +49 89 2399 2605 <div data-bbox="1404 1848 1567 1995" data-label="Image"> </div>

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/GB00/02772

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, pages:

1,3-6	as originally filed			
2	as received on	15/06/2001	with letter of	11/06/2001

Claims, No.:

5 (part),6-8	as originally filed			
1-4,5 (part)	as received on	15/06/2001	with letter of	11/06/2001

Drawings, sheets:

1/2,2/2	as originally filed
---------	---------------------

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/GB00/02772

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:
- ☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

- ☐ the entire international application.
- ☒ claims Nos. 8.

because:

- ☐ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (*specify*):
- ☒ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):
see separate sheet
- ☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.
- ☐ no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos. .

2. A meaningful international preliminary examination cannot be carried out due to the failure of the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing to comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions:

- ☐ the written form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.
- ☐ the computer readable form has not been furnished or does not comply with the standard.

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/GB00/02772

citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	
	No:	Claims	1-7
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	
	No:	Claims	1-7
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-7
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations
see separate sheet

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:
see separate sheet

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:
see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/GB00/02772

Re Item III

- 1). Independent claim 8 does not define any concrete features and can therefore not be examined. See Rule 6.2(a) PCT and the PCT Guidelines, Section IV, III-4.10 as to the references to the drawings.

Re Item V

- 2). Reference is made to the following document:

D1: WO-A-97/35313

- 3). D1 discloses a portable disc holder comprising all the features set out in present claim 1 (see page 8 and figures 1-3):

- a frame member 1a" adapted to circumferentially surround a disc 2 at the disc's edges (see also the abstract: an edge element 1a" which surrounds the base surface at least partially in a frame-like manner);
- two opposite resiliently moveable flange means 3a-3d for holding the disc and preventing movement thereof;
- the flanges are integral with the frame (see figure 3).

The subject-matter of claim 1 is therefore not new, Art. 33(2) PCT.

- 4). The features set out in dependent claims 2-7 are also anticipated by D1 (see figures 1-3). With respect to claim 7 it is noted that normal bag for carrying the disc is a sort of sleeve.

Re Item VII

- 5). The features of the claims are not provided with reference signs placed in parentheses (Rule 6.2(b) PCT).

Re Item VIII

- 6). The vague and imprecise statement in the description on page 6 is unclear and should have been deleted (see the PCT Guidelines, III-4.3a).

-2-

cannot fit into standard sized compact disc storage facilities and for this reason they are generally only used for demonstration discs sent by post or included with magazines etc., rather than being used as a substitute for the more traditional plastics holder commonly used to house all kinds of compact discs, including those for playing computer games.

5

It is an object of the present invention to provide a lightweight portable disc holder in which the aforementioned disadvantages are obviated.

According to the invention there is provided a portable disc holder, the
10 holder comprising or including a frame member adapted to circumferentially surround a disc at the disc's edges and being at least partially in contact therewith to restrain planar movement of the disc when held in the frame, the frame member including integral flange means into which at least part of an outer edge of the disc can be inserted for preventing or inhibiting planar movement of the disc in that region, and remote from the flange means
15 on a generally opposite portion of the frame an integral resiliently moveable flange means adapted to restrain planar movement of an adjacent edge portion of the disc when the disc is mounted in the frame, the resiliently moveable flange means permitting entry of that portion of the disc into the frame following resilient deformation of the flange.

20 Conveniently, the flange means remote from the resiliently moveable flange means is also resiliently moveable, and each comprise an integrally formed inwardly facing flange relative to the frame, behind which is a slot to permit each flange to be pushed radially outwardly relative to the orientation of a disc to be stored to permit entry of the disc into the frame. Alternatively, the resiliently moveable flange means may be arranged

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CLAIMS

1. A portable disc holder, the holder comprising a frame member adapted to circumferentially surround a disc at the disc's edges and being at least partially in contact therewith to restrain planar movement of the disc when held in the frame member, the frame member including integral flange means for preventing or inhibiting planar movement of the disc, and remote from the flange means on a generally opposite portion of the frame member an integral resiliently moveable flange means adapted to restrain planar movement of an adjacent edge portion of the disc when the disc is mounted in the frame member, the resiliently moveable flange means permitting entry of the disc into the frame member following resilient deformation of the flange.

2. A disc holder as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the flange means remote from the resiliently moveable flange means is also resiliently moveable.

3. A disc holder as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein each resilient flange means comprises an integrally formed inwardly facing flange relative to the frame member, behind which is a slot to permit each flange to be pushed radially outwardly relative to the orientation of a disc to be stored to permit entry of the disc into the frame.

4. A disc holder as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein each resiliently moveable flange means is angularly moveable to permit entry or removal of the disc.

5. A disc holder as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

Commissioner
US Department of Commerce
United States Patent and Trademark
Office, PCT
2011 South Clark Place Room
CP2/5C24
Arlington, VA 22202
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE
in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing:

15 March 2001 (15.03.01)

International application No.:

PCT/GB00/02772

Applicant's or agent's file reference:

RAB.P04219PC

International filing date:

19 July 2000 (19.07.00)

Priority date:

20 July 1999 (20.07.99)

Applicant:

PRICE, Robin, James et al

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:



in the demand filed with the International preliminary Examining Authority on:

11 January 2001 (11.01.01)



in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

2. The election ☒ was



was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

Authorized officer:

J. Zahra

Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

NOTICE INFORMING THE APPLICANT OF THE
COMMUNICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
APPLICATION TO THE DESIGNATED OFFICES

(PCT Rule 47.1(c), first sentence)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

BAILEY, Richard Alan
A. R. Davies & Co.
27 Imp...
Celttenham
Gloucestershire
REYLAUME-UNI**RECEIVED**

26 MAR 2001

A.R.DAVIES & CO

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 15 March 2001 (15.03.01)		IMPORTANT NOTICE	
Applicant's or agent's file reference RAB.P04219PC			
International application No. PCT/GB00/02772	International filing date (day/month/year) 19 July 2000 (19.07.00)	Priority date (day/month/year) 20 July 1999 (20.07.99)	
Applicant PRICE, Robin, James et al			

1. Notice is hereby given that the International Bureau has communicated, as provided in Article 20, the International application to the following designated Offices on the date indicated above as the date of mailing of this Notice:
AU,KP,KR,US

In accordance with Rule 47.1(c), third sentence, those Offices will accept the present Notice as conclusive evidence that the communication of the international application has duly taken place on the date of mailing indicated above and no copy of the International application is required to be furnished by the applicant to the designated Office(s).

2. The following designated Offices have waived the requirement for such a communication at this time:
AE,AL,AM,AP,AT,AZ,BA,BB,BG,BR,BY,CA,CH,CN,CR,CU,CZ,DE,DK,DM,EA,EE,EP,ES,FI,GB,GD,GE,GH,GM,HR,HU,ID,IL,IN,IS,JP,KE,KG,KZ,LC,LK,LR,LS,LT,LU,LV,MA,MD,MG,MK,MN,MW,MX,NO,NZ,OA,PL,PT,RO,RU,SD,SE,SG,SI,SK,SL,TJ,TM,TR,TT,TZ,UA,UG,UZ,VN,YU,ZA,ZW
The communication will be made to those Offices only upon their request. Furthermore, those Offices do not require the applicant to furnish a copy of the International application (Rule 49.1(a-bis)).
3. Enclosed with this Notice is a copy of the international application as published by the International Bureau on 15 March 2001 (15.03.01) under No. WO 01/18812

REMINDER REGARDING CHAPTER II (Article 31(2)(a) and Rule 54.2)

If the applicant wishes to postpone entry into the national phase until 30 months (or later in some Offices) from the priority date, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed with the competent International Preliminary Examining Authority before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date.

It is the applicant's sole responsibility to monitor the 19-month time limit.

Note that only an applicant who is a national or resident of a PCT Contracting State which is bound by Chapter II has the right to file a demand for international preliminary examination.

REMINDER REGARDING ENTRY INTO THE NATIONAL PHASE (Article 22 or 39(1))

If the applicant wishes to proceed with the international application in the national phase, he must, within 20 months or 30 months, or later in some Offices, perform the acts referred to therein before each designated or elected Office.

For further important information on the time limits and acts to be performed for entering the national phase, see the Annex to Form PCT/IB/301 (Notification of Receipt of Record Copy) and Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland	Authorized officer J. Zahra
Facsimile No. (41-22) 740.14.35	Telephone No. (41-22) 338.83.38

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
15 March 2001 (15.03.2001)

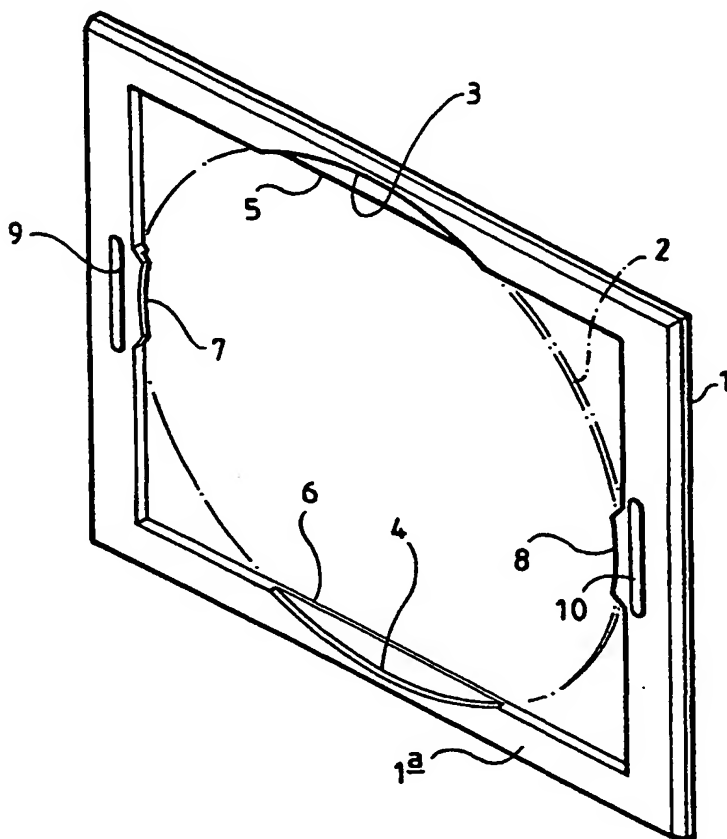
PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/18812 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **G11B 33/04** (74) Agent: BAILEY, Richard, Alan; A. R. Davies & Co., 27 Imperial Square, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL50 1RQ (GB).
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/GB00/02772
- (22) International Filing Date: 19 July 2000 (19.07.2000) (81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
9916996.3 20 July 1999 (20.07.1999) GB
- (71) Applicants and
(72) Inventors: PRICE, Robin, James [GB/GB]; 3 Highdale Avenue, Clevedon, North Somerset BS21 7LZ (GB). EGNER, Christian [DE/GB]; 2 Woodlands Road, Clevedon, North Somerset BS21 6QD (GB).
- (84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: IMPROVEMENTS IN AND RELATING TO PORTABLE DISC HOLDERS



(57) Abstract: A portable disc holder comprises a frame member (1) adapted to circumferentially surround a disc at the disc's edges and being at least partially in contact therewith to restrain planar movement of the disc when held in the frame member, the frame member (1) including flange means (7, 8) for preventing or inhibiting planar movement of the disc, and remote from the flange means (7, 8) on a generally opposite portion of the frame member (1) a resiliently moveable means (7, 8) adapted to restrain planar movement of an adjacent edge portion of the disc when the disc is mounted in the frame member (1), the resiliently moveable flange means (7, 8) permitting entry of the disc into the frame member (1) following resilient deformation of the flange.

WO 01/18812 A1

WO 01/18812 A1



Published:

— *With international search report.*

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

- 1 -

Improvements in and relating to Portable Disc Holders

This invention relates to portable disc holders of the type which are typically used to hold or contain compact discs, or CD's as they are more familiarly known.

5

Compact disc holders fall generally into two types, the first being in the form of a rectangular plastics box which includes a hinged lid or front cover over a rectangular housing including a back cover for containing the disc. The "height" of the disc holder relative to the length of the hinge is slightly in excess of the diameter of the disc, whereas the "width" of the disc holder is greater, as it must include the width of the hinge itself. Although these kinds of disc holder are in common use and efficiently protect compact discs from damage, nevertheless they are unsuitable for transporting such discs by post as they are generally heavy and can become broken during transport.

10

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The second type of portable disc holders available are typically made from cardboard, as is shown in patent number GB2319242B, and include a back cover onto which are bonded sheets of shaped cardboard having a central aperture corresponding generally to the external diameter of the disc to be held. A front cover is hingedly connected to the back cover to protect the otherwise exposed face of the disc. This type of disc holder is generally lighter than a plastics one and therefore is preferable for transportation by post, but a major disadvantage arises by the fact that, in order to protect all edges of the disc from accidental damage, the overall "height" of the holder is greater such that the disc holder is essentially square, as opposed to being rectangular as in the plastics version. This means, in turn, that such relatively lightweight compact disc holders

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- 2 -

cannot fit into standard sized compact disc storage facilities and for this reason they are generally only used for demonstration discs sent by post or included with magazines etc., rather than being used as a substitute for the more traditional plastics holder commonly used to house all kinds of compact discs, including those for playing computer games.

5

It is an object of the present invention to provide a lightweight portable disc holder in which the aforementioned disadvantages are obviated.

According to the invention there is provided a portable disc holder, the
10 holder comprising or including a frame member adapted to circumferentially surround a disc at the disc's edges and being at least partially in contact therewith to restrain planar movement of the disc when held in the frame, the frame member including flange means into which at least part of an outer edge of the disc can be inserted for preventing or inhibiting planar movement of the disc in that region, and remote from the flange means
15 on a generally opposite portion of the frame a resiliently moveable flange means adapted to restrain planar movement of an adjacent edge portion of the disc when the disc is mounted in the frame, the resiliently moveable flange means permitting entry of that portion of the disc into the frame following resilient deformation of the flange.

20

Conveniently, the flange means remote from the resiliently moveable flange means is also resiliently moveable, and each comprise an integrally formed inwardly facing flange relative to the frame, behind which is a slot to permit each flange to be pushed radially outwardly relative to the orientation of a disc to be stored to permit entry of the disc into the frame. Alternatively, the resiliently moveable flange means may be arranged

- 3 -

to move angularly relative to the frame member to permit entry or removal of the disc.

Conveniently, the frame member has a back cover and a hinged front cover, which hinged front cover may have a projection at or near a leading edge thereof
5 cooperable with a correspondingly shaped recess in the frame such that the front cover can be closed by a snap fit and released in the same way.

In an alternative embodiment of the invention, the disc holder is provided with a separate sleeve into which the disc holder and a disc may be inserted.

10

The invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a portable disc holder according to a first
15 embodiment of the invention and showing a disc stored therewithin in broken outline,

Figure 2 is a perspective view of a portable disc holder according to a second embodiment of the invention including a back cover and a hinged
20 front cover, and

Figure 3 is a sectional detail view along the axis II-II of Figure 2.

Referring firstly to Figure 1 a portable disc holder according to this

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embodiment of the invention comprises a rectilinear plastics frame member (1) into which may be inserted and stored a compact disc (2) shown in broken outline. This is achieved by the disc (2) being restrained by a pair of oppositely disposed part circular recesses (3,4) in the front face (1a) of the frame member (1) and being of circumference corresponding to the external circumference of the disc (2), which recesses (3,4) each define a corresponding web portion (5,6) of the frame member (1).

A pair of oppositely disposed flanges (7,8) project inwardly relative to the disc (2) such that the disc (2) is captured within the recesses (3,4).

Behind each of the flanges (7,8) are respective slots (9,10) which therefore permit resilient deformation of the flanges (7,8) radially outwardly in a manner to be described.

15 Turning now to Figure 2, there is shown a view of a portable disc holder substantially identical to that of Figure 1 but including a rear cover (11) secured to the rear of the frame (1), such as by adhesive, a spine portion (12) which acts as a hinge and to which is attached the front cover (13) which may therefore be closed to entirely cover the front (1a) of the frame member (1).

20

Protruding from the inside of the front cover (13) near to the leading edge thereof is a part spherical projection (14) which, when the front cover (13) is closed, enters the slot (10) and, as can be seen more clearly with reference to Figure 3, engages by means of a snap fit with a correspondingly shaped recess (15) so that the portable disc

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holder can be closed or opened as required.

As can be seen more clearly with reference to Figure 3, the flange (8) covers an edge portion (2a) of the disc (2), thereby restraining the latter from planar movement out of the frame (1). However, because the flange (8) can be pushed in the direction shown arrowed in Figure 3 by virtue of the presence of the slots (10) the disc (2) can be inserted and removed from the frame (1) by being pressed, respectively, into or out of the frame (1), thereby forcing the flanges (7,8) apart in order to permit insertion or removal as the case may be.

Rather than being designed to permit insertion or removal of the disc by forcing the flanges (7, 8) apart, one or more of the flanges may be angularly moveable relative to the remainder of the frame about an axis generally parallel to the side of the frame to which that flange is attached or forms part. The flange may be provided with an extension, depression of which causes the angular movement necessary to insert or release the disc to occur.

Although the embodiments described above and shown in the drawings utilise diametrically opposed pairs of moveable flanges (7,8) nevertheless it will be readily appreciated that only one such flange may be moveable and the other may be fixed, and indeed it will also be appreciated they may not be diametrically opposed and could, for example, be disposed at a position slightly in excess of 90° to each other relative to the central axis of the disc. Similarly, although a rectangular portable disc holder is shown of size corresponding to a standard CD disc holder nevertheless it will be appreciated that

other shapes may be adopted without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention.

CLAIMS

1. A portable disc holder, the holder comprising a frame member adapted to circumferentially surround a disc at the disc's edges and being at least partially in contact therewith to restrain planar movement of the disc when held in the frame member, the frame member including flange means for preventing or inhibiting planar movement of the disc, and remote from the flange means on a generally opposite portion of the frame member a resiliently moveable flange means adapted to restrain planar movement of an adjacent edge portion of the disc when the disc is mounted in the frame member, the resiliently moveable flange means permitting entry of the disc into the frame member following resilient deformation of the flange.
2. A disc holder as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the flange means remote from the resiliently moveable flange means is also resiliently moveable.
3. A disc holder as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein each resilient flange means comprises an integrally formed inwardly facing flange relative to the frame member, behind which is a slot to permit each flange to be pushed radially outwardly relative to the orientation of a disc to be stored to permit entry of the disc into the frame.
4. A disc holder as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein each resiliently moveable flange means is angularly moveable to permit entry or removal of the disc.
5. A disc holder as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the

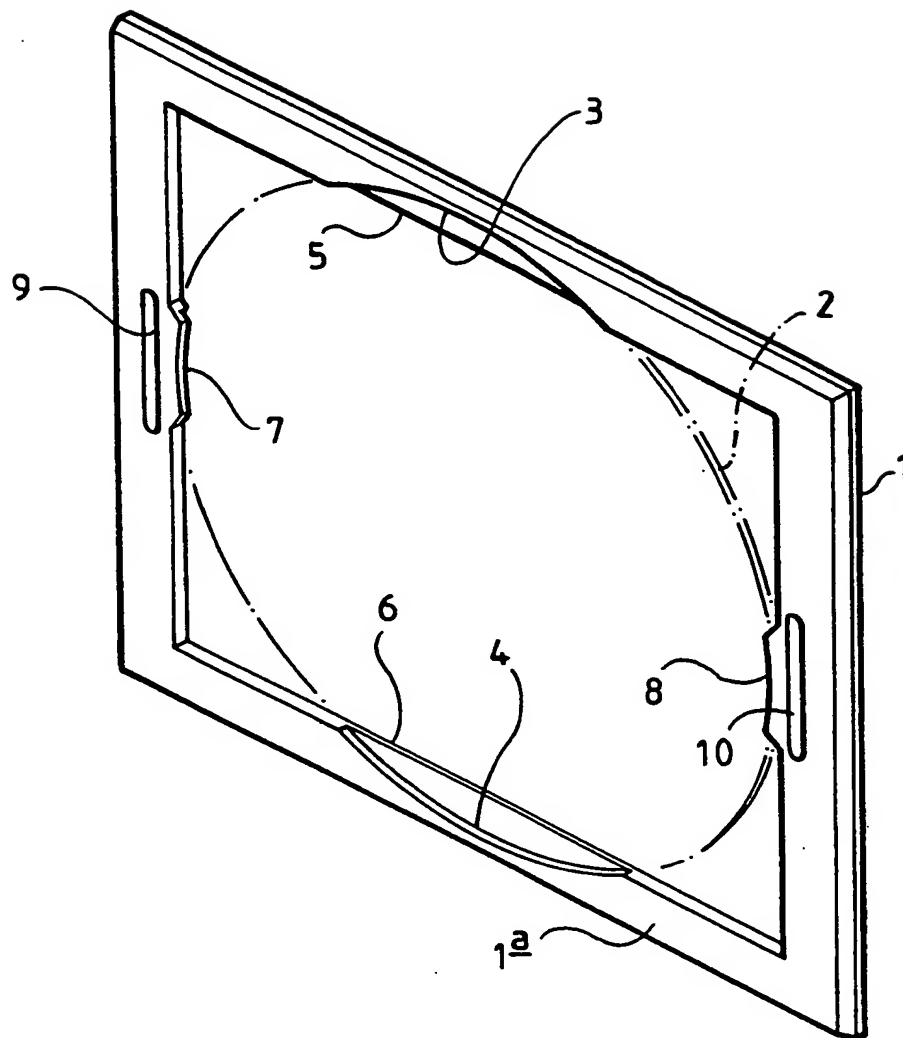
- 8 -

frame member has a back cover and a hinged front cover.

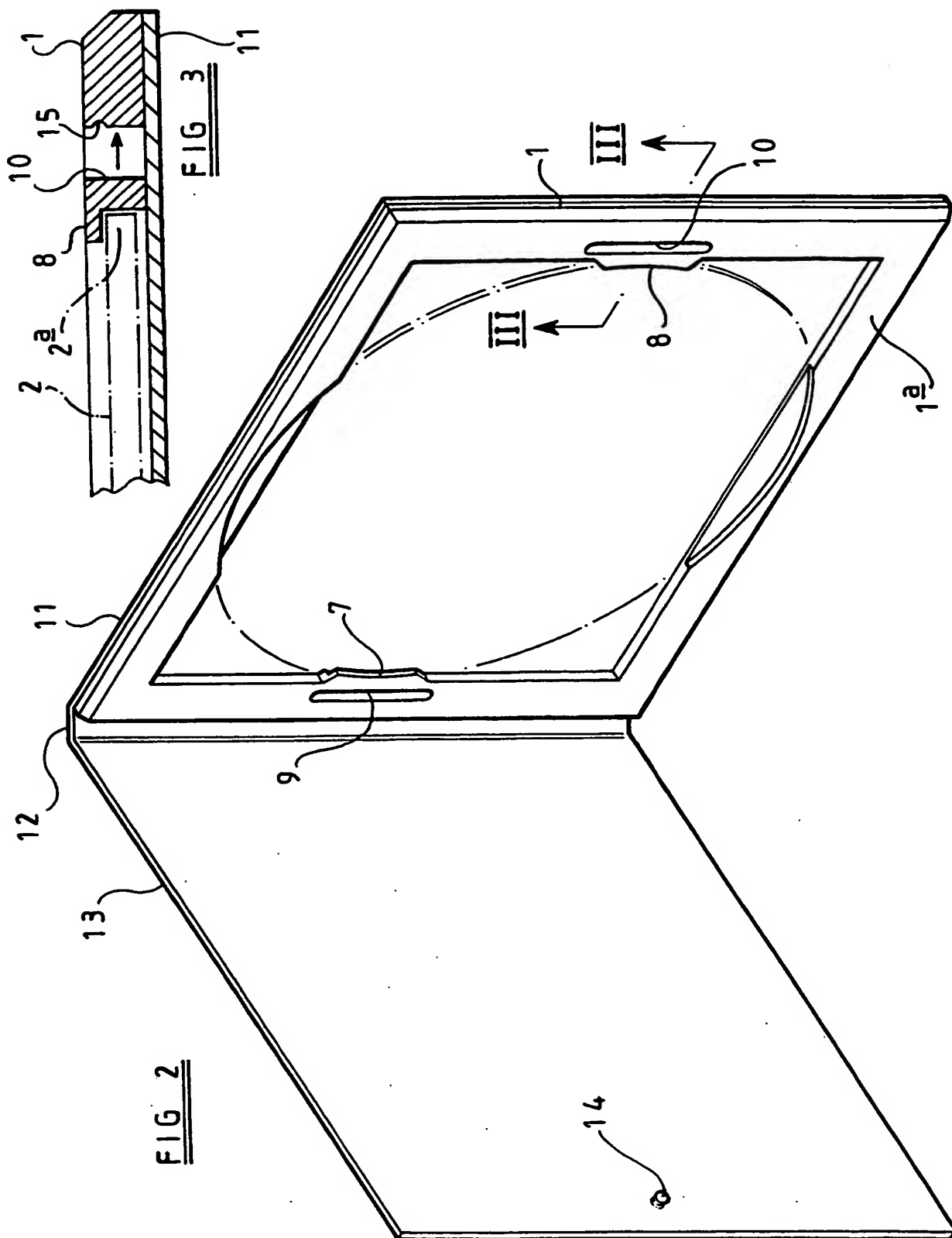
6. A disc holder as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the hinged front cover carries a projection at or near a leading edge thereof cooperable with a correspondingly shaped recess in the frame such that the front cover can be closed by a snap-fit and released in the same way.

7. A disc holder as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein the disc holder is provided with a separate sleeve into which the disc holder and a disc may be inserted.

8. A portable disc holder substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to Figure 1 or Figures 2 and 3 of the accompanying drawings.

FIG 1

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

 Intern Application No
 PCT/EP 00/02772

 CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 G11B33/04

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

FIELDS SEARCHED

 Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 IPC 7 G11B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Data bases consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

Internal

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Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

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Name and mailing address of the ISA

 European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentaan 2
 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
 Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
 Fax (+31-70) 340-3016

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